

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 02422 091606Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 AID-05 /050 W
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R 090953Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6238
INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

UNCLAS ISLAMABAD 2422

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC, ACOU, PK
SUBJ: DEBRIEFING - WILLIAM G. MCMOIL/USAID

REF: (A) FRANKFURT 1844

1. ON 9 MARCH 1978, MR. WILLIAM G. MCMOIL, FSR-2, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/COMPTROLLER, USAID, ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN, WAS DEBRIEFED BY RSO ISLAMABAD CONCERNING THE ATTEMPTED HIJACKING OF PK-301 ENROUTE TO KARACHI FROM ISLAMABAD ON 2 MARCH 1978.

2. MR. MCMOIL STATED THAT HE WAS A PASSENGER ON THE AIRCRAFT DURING THE ATTEMPTED HIJACKING AND THAT THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN CITED REFTEL IS CORRECT TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE BUT WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE MORE DETAILS CONCERNING PARAGRAPH 3 OF THE CITED REFTEL.

3. ACCORDING TO MR. MCMOIL, AT APPROXIMATELY 1105 HOURS, ON 2 MARCH 1978, A PAKISTANI PASSENGER, WHO WAS SEATED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ECONOMY SECTION, AFT OF THE CENTER GALLEY, STOOD UP AND IN A VERY LOUD VOICE (URDU) SPOKE FOR APPROXIMATELY THREE MINUTES. THE AIRCRAFT WAS IN THE AIR HEADING FOR KARACHI. IT APPEARED THAT MOST OF THE PASSENGERS DID NOT REALIZE HIS INTENTION AND ASSUMED THAT HE WAS DEMENTED. FROM MCMOIL'S SEAT, 18-J, MCMOIL WAS NOT ABLE TO SEE IF THE HIJACKER HAD A
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GRENAD OR WAS CARRYING A WEAPON. ACCORDING TO MCMOIL, THE HIJACKER FINISHED HIS SPEECH AND MOVED INTO THE RIGHT-HAND AISLE PROCEEDING FORWARD TOWARDS THE FIRST CLASS SECTION AND THE COCKPIT. WHEN THE HIJACKER WAS DIRECTLY TO THE LEFT OF MCMOIL, A PASSENGER TACKLED THE HIJACKER FROM BEHIND. AS THE HIJACKER AND PASSENGER BOTH FELL TO THE FLOOR A GRENADE EXPLODED EMITTING A LARGE CLOUD OF BLACKISH-GRAY SMOKE BUT

VERY FEW GRAGMENTS. THE PASSENGER SEATED NEXT TO MCMOIL RECEIVED LEG WOUNDS AND MCMOIL HIMSELF WAS COVERED WITH SMOKE AND MINOR POWER BURNS. ACCORDING TO MCMOIL, THE HIJACKER WAS SERIOUSLY INJURED AND IN DEEP SHOCK. ALL OF THE PASSENGERS LOCATED IN THE IMMEDIATE AREA OF THE EXPLOSION, INCLUDING MCMOIL, WERE MOVED TO THE FORWARD SECTION OF THE AIRCRAFT AND ADMINISTERED FIRST AID BY THE PLANE CREW. THERE APPEARED TO BE NO STRUCTURAL DAMAGE TO THE AIRCRAFT.
HUMMEL

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